

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 485
By Lewis

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Burell Crowell for his
work as a referee and basketball official critic.

WHEREAS, this legislative body is proud to recognize citizens of our state who
contribute to high school and collegiate athletics; and

WHEREAS, Burell Crowell, a longtime Manchester resident, is one such dedicated and
diligent person who has served expertly as a baseball, basketball and football official, and as a
basketball official critic; and

WHEREAS, his career as an official started around 1939, when Mr. Crowell was asked
to referee some high school scrimmages. He continued to officiate games while in military
service and later refereed semi-pro games in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, he then began officiating high school basketball games in Shelbyville and
baseball games in a factory league, while also serving as a teacher; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Crowell then officiated ball games in the Southeast and Ohio Valley
Conferences. It was about this time that he met our former colleague, Dale Kelly, then an SEC
official, who would become his close friend; and

WHEREAS, on December 21, 1981, he officiated the longest game in NCAA Division I
history, when Connecticut beat Bradley 75-73 in seven overtimes; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Crowell worked the hardcourts until 1982, when he decided to retire. However, his retirement did not last long; Dale Kelly, who was serving as supervisor for officials of four NCAA Division I Conferences asked him to observe and critique basketball officials; and

WHEREAS, he has served admirably in that important capacity ever since, traveling several nights a week, sitting in the stands at games, filling out a report on how the officials have done and mailing his "constructive criticism" of the officials to his supervisor; and

WHEREAS, each summer, he works four or five training camps at various college campuses, where the next generation of officials are put under the microscope of experts like him. He has been training officials for 14 years; and

WHEREAS, in 1985, Mr. Crowell was specially recognized for his many years of service to athletics by being inducted into the prestigious Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Hall of Fame, a rare honor that only a select few coaches, officials and administrators receive; and

WHEREAS, he enjoys being at home with his wife, Charlotte, and seeing his five grown children; and

WHEREAS, perhaps his most redeeming quality is his admiration for the simple as well as the sublime, not awe-struck by the players' stardom, some of his fondest memories come from the dirty ball-fields in the small towns of the Volunteer State; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to recognize the tremendous contribution made by Burell Crowell to athletics; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and commend Mr. Burell Crowell and wish him well in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation, with this final clause omitted from such copy.